

Flight Jacket

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Proudly Serving the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Community

Red Devils mark a milestone in Marine Corps aviation

Squadron's history reaches 75 years

By Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

More than 150 Marines of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 celebrated the squadron's 75th birthday in traditional Corps fashion Sept. 1 by holding a promotion and awards ceremony followed with cake cutting in Hangar 1.

While two AV-8 Harrier squadrons surpass VMFA-232 in longevity ever so slightly, the "Red Devils" remain the Corps' oldest squadron with a "fighter" designation.

"The Marine Corps is steeped in history and tradition. This is part of the history we take a minute to reflect on," said the squadron's Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Terry Gould. "We'd like to see all squadrons make it to their 75th birthday."

It was on Sept. 1, 1925 that the squadron, which eventually became the VMFA-232 "Red Devils," began less than 20 miles away at what is now Naval Air Station North Island.

Although the squadrons' mission underwent several changes, its Red Devil logo has decorated the sides of more than a dozen differ-

ent models of aircraft assigned to the squadron throughout the years.

It is the mark of the Red Devil by which the squadron links its history, according to Gould. "We take pride in the Red Devil," he said.

Marine Corps history does not record the origin or significance of the symbol, but it is known that it was present on the body of the Vought VE-7SF flown by the squadron's first commanding officer, 1stLt. Clayton C. Jerome, who commanded the squadron for just 19 days.

Gould remembered hearing about the squadron's history earlier in his career and said he dedicated himself to a diligent study of it before checking in. Now, as "Head Devil," Gould gives every Marine who checks into the squadron a brief on Red Devil history.

Pilot Maj. Randy Nash said he is proud to carry on the Red Devil legacy of excellence. "I'd rather be here than in any other unit in the Marine Corps," he said. "It's really an honor and a privilege to be a unit that is so old and has such a great reputation."

Twenty-one-year-old Lance Cpl. Robert Allen, expeditor, said



Marine Aircraft Group 11 Commanding Officer, Col. Terry G. Robling serves a piece of birthday cake to Lance Cpl. Robert Allen, expeditor, VMFA-232, during the Red Devils' 75th birthday celebration Sept. 1. The squadron began as Fighter Plane Squadron 3M, flying single-engine biplane fighter trainers at what is now Naval Air Station North Island.

photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

he learned the details of Red Devil history from reading the dozens of framed items that line the squadron's main passageway. "They've always been around. They've always done their mission," said Allen. He said he is inspired to put forth extra effort by the accomplishments of Red Devil past and present. "If you're on a winning team it's a lot easier."

The squadron has presently accumulated more than 84,000 Class "A" mishap-free flight hours, a safety record that began Nov. 23,

1979. At the time the squadron flew the F-4 Phantom II, the last of which Red Devils have enshrined in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D. C.

Other accomplishments of the past decade include combat action in support of operations Desert Storm and Shield. Squadron pilots were among the first to strike during the 41 days of intensive combat that liberated Kuwait. In total, Red Devils booked 1,390 flight hours and 740 combat missions in the effort.

In the later half of the 1990s VMFA-232 was honored with the 1995 Chief of Naval Operations Naval Aviation Safety Award, the 1996 Marine Corps Aviation Association's Marine Fighter Attack Squadron of the Year, and the Commandant's Cup and MCAA's Marine Squadron of the Year Award in 1997.

The performance of modern-day Red Devils shadows that of their predecessors.

See '232, page 10

All good things come to an end...

Capt. Waylan Cain, pilot, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 exits the newest F/A-18 after flying it home to Miramar from the factory in St. Louis, Mo. Sept. 1. The aircraft received by the "Vikings" was the final F/A-18 "Hornet" to roll off the Boeing assembly line. Hornet models "A" through "D" have been used by the Marine Corps since 1983. The Corps has elected not to purchase models of the F/A-18E and F "Super Hornet" currently used by Navy squadrons. According to John M. Valovich, Boeing's manager of customer support for Marine squadrons on the West Coast, the Marine Corps will replace its Hornets with the Joint Strike Fighter. The JSF, which Boeing and Lockheed-Martin are competing to produce, is slated to start arriving to Marine squadrons in 2008 and replace the last F/A-18 around 2020. Models of the



photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

JSF are also being considered to replace the Corps' AV-8 Harriers, and Air Force and Navy fighters as well.

DoD, Services work to expand child care

By Linda D. Kozaryn

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — DoD's child care program may be hailed as the model for the nation, but family policy officials here are determined to make the best even better.

About half of all military families have one or more children below school age, according to DoD officials, and in 60 percent of these families, both parents work. Currently, DoD meets about 58 percent of the need for child care. Individually, the Army is at 61 percent; Navy, 55 percent; Air Force, 57 percent; and Marine Corps, 58 percent.

"Right now, we need about 20,000 spaces to achieve our interim goal of 65 percent by 2003," said Carolee Van Horn, a program analyst in DoD's Office of Children and Youth. DoD's ultimate goal is to achieve 80 percent



photo courtesy of Office of Family Policy

Military parents have peace of mind when they're deployed knowing their children are safe and well cared for.

by 2005, she said.

When people know their children are getting quality child care, "they're more apt to

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Flight Jacket



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Opportunity knocks at Marines' hatch

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The Marine Corps Community Services Career Resource Center teamed up with 70 different employers from the Southern California area to host a career fair for members of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar community at the Officers' Club here Wednesday.

Boeing, Marconi, Unisys, military reservist recruiters and several law enforcement agencies were among the participating employers. Between 700 and 1,000 people attended the fair, gave their resumes to employers and conducted interviews at the fair. Some people may have even been hired on the spot according to Ben M.

Angeles, assistant career fair coordinator, MCCA.

Of the 70 booths, the seven law enforcement agencies were among the busiest.

"We are keeping really busy here," said Deputy Carol Fahey, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office. "Whenever we come here there is a lot of interest and we get a lot of quality applicants from the military. We are trying to hire 800 people this year. Usually the majority of the people we hire come from the active duty military."

Although some booths were busier than others, the career resource center made sure the fair offered a good variety of employers so everyone would find something they were interested in.

"There are more than just active duty service members looking for jobs here," said Robert K. Leeds, career fair coordinator, MCCA. "There are a lot of retirees, family members including wives and children of working age. Not everyone is looking for a job in law enforcement. Some of the other popular booths were the more technical jobs dealing with computers."

"We've done excellent here," said Kelly K. French, technical recruiter, Unisys Corporation. "We have conducted a few interviews and even set up some more interviews for tomorrow. Our corporation prefers applicants with military background. They tend to have more life experience. Plus, by doing a career fair on a military base in San Diego, you run into a lot of people who are getting out of the service and can work in other ar-



photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

Lisa Egnew, Autozone representative, talks with an active duty Marine about employment opportunities at the career fair.

eas of the country."

Many of the people who came to the career fair went away with either jobs, applications, interview appointments or at least more information than they had when they came in.

"This is the first job fair I've been to. They didn't have these 10 years ago," said Lt. Col. Ken L. Jorgensen, executive officer, Marine Aircraft Group 46. "I got out of the military at 10 and a half years and I didn't really know a lot about how things worked on the outside. This is an example of Marines helping Marines. These fairs give Marines a lot of insight on how to speak 'civilianese' instead of 'militaryese.'"

Although Jorgensen doesn't go on terminal leave until May 2001, he is planning for his future and the career resource center's career fair is helping him get his foot in the door with several employers giving him a lot of opportunities.

Although many of the Marines who come to the career fair are planning on getting jobs outside of the military, the career fair isn't a threat to Marine Corps retention according to Leeds.

"Along with all the other employers, we invite military recruiters," said Leeds. "They do very well here. They generate a lot of interest."

The Naval Reserves, the Marine Corps Reserve and the National Guard all had transitional recruiters at the fair.

"We're here to inform Marines of their options," said Gunnery Sgt. Ronald F. Batiste, transitional recruiter, Marine Forces Reserve Transition Center. "There are a lot of misconceptions about the reserves, and I'm here to show Marines what it's all about. The reserves is a lot more flexible than most people think. A lot of people

See **Career Fair**, page 10

H&HS offers family convenience

By Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Checking into a new command can be a stressful event for any Marine. Adding children into the equation can make for some serious stress. To help families in this situation, several Marines and civilian employees from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron's S-1 shop recently opened a family friendly waiting room.

"We wanted to give the families of Marines checking in some place to go where they can relax," said CWO2 Dionisio Floro, the project coordinator. "From that idea sprung the H&HS family waiting room."

All work was voluntary and was done either on lunch hours or after hours by five Marines and two civilian employees. The final product, which took just 2 1/2 months to complete, resulted in a comfortable room with cartoon characters painted on the walls, a sofa, a desk, books and lots of toys.

Floro added his thanks for the special efforts made by those who took part in the project: Mrs. Betty Heeter, Mrs. Nancy Dussault, Sgt. Melisa Bischoff, LCpl. Debra Buentello, LCpl. Odete Almeida, LCpl. Kaisagarr Tavai and LCpl. Guillermo Rosasabarca.



Photo by PFC Christopher Fitzgerald

Two-year-old Michael Barraza christens the H&HS Family Room by diving into the ceremonial cake. Michael is the son of Lance Cpl. Nieves Barraza and his wife Elizabeth.

Your opinion counts – so make it count

By Lance Cpl. John R. Lawson

Marine Corps News

WASHINGTON — If you have ideas about how the Marine Corps can make itself better, the Commandant, Gen. James L. Jones, wants to hear them.

The way to get your suggestions to the Commandant is Marine Mail, a direct channel to Headquarters Marine Corps.

Gen. Charles Krulak originated Marine Mail at the beginning of his term as Commandant, back in 1995. Over the years, hundreds of submissions have resulted in an array of changes.

Jones wants to reintroduce all Marines, sailors, and civilians to Marine Mail.

As Gen. Jones said in a new administrative message, Marine Mail affords everyone, regardless of rank, an avenue for proposing positive, professional ideas. "Effective immediately, I solicit your innovative thoughts, ideas, and recommendations through Marine Mail," Jones said.

There are guidelines for Marine Mail to ensure that suggestions focus on improving the Corps in meaningful ways. A suggestion should address at least one of the following four questions.

- What aren't we doing that we should be doing?

See **Marine Mail**, page 11

BMC outfitted with new look

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Construction on a new medical building is complete, and by Oct. 1 the Branch Medical Clinic here will have completed its transition into the new facility.

The new facility, located in Building 2496 next to the current clinic, will provide much needed space to accommodate medical staff and patients while also giving plenty of room for new equipment.

As for the old building, the Dental Clinic here will make use of it, but the medical staff won't be shedding any tears over leaving the 28-year-old structure.

"For the most part we out-grew that place. It got to the point where we just needed some more space," said Navy Lt. j.g. Brent C. Miller, administration officer Medical Service Corps. "We were working three flight surgeons to an office in the old building. We have this incredible amount of space, and

now we will have digital X-ray systems. We now have two optometry viewing areas, larger exam rooms, a drive-thru pick-up window for prescriptions," said Miller. "One thing I must mention is physical therapy. In the old building, there was a small office with a stationary bicycle out in the hallway. Now physical therapy has a huge amount of space. We've already brought in a couple weight machines and a couple stationary bikes. The (physical therapy) will be a lot better," said Miller.

During the Branch Medical Clinic's stay in Building 2495, it has received two major awards for the hard work the staff puts in, earning the clinic a rating in the top 10 percent of all Department of the Navy medical facilities.

Miller assures patrons of the clinic that the quality of the services and the services offered themselves, will not change. The only thing people might find is that things will move along much quicker.



photo by Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

A view of the brand new Branch Medical Clinic facility as seen from Bauer Rd. Currently, the clinic tends to patients in the new facility, but the move is not scheduled to be completed until Oct. 1.

CFC – change tomorrow today

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The San Diego County Combined Federal Campaign 2000 is scheduled to kick-off Sept. 25.

Under the slogan, "Change Tomorrow Today," the 2000 campaign hopes to surpass 1999's pledge total of \$5,742,855 by fostering 100 percent awareness. They want to ensure each person is informed of the benefits and value of contributing through the CFC.

Unit CFC coordinators here will be ensuring each person on Miramar is personally contacted and given the opportunity to participate in the campaign. However, participation is not mandatory.

"All federal employees have the right to contribute or not contribute to the CFC. The choice is up to the individual," said Capt. Carl Maas, 3d Maine Aircraft Wing CFC coordinator.

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, CFC is a way for the

military, Federal and Postal Service employees to contribute through payroll deduction to their favorite charities.

It was established as a way to end multiple charity appeals in the workplace. Later it was expanded to include lessening the burden on the government's meeting human health and welfare needs.

Hundreds of organizations are represented through the CFC, ranging from poverty relief to medical research.

A committee of Federal employees

ensuring their legitimacy has certified the agency, according to the CFC 2000 Campaign Handbook.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitor of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

For more information about the campaign, contact your unit coordination, if you don't have one inquire about CFC through your staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge.



Stalnaker takes command of Black Knights

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lt. Col. Michael C. Albo will relinquish command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 to Lt. Col. James L. Stalnaker in a change-of-command ceremony scheduled for 2 p.m. today at Hangar 2.

Albo has commanded the "Black Knights" since June 1998 and is awaiting orders. He is scheduled to retire in February.

Stalnaker comes from Marine Aircraft Group 11 here, where he served as the S-1 Officer since January. Before that he served as the executive officer for VMFA 323.

"I'm honored to be taking over such a talented squadron, from the most junior Marines to the majors," said Stalnaker. "My challenge will be to keep the Black Knights operating at their high-level of readiness."

Stalnaker, a Phoenix, Ariz., native, earned his commission in April of 1981 after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. After completing The Basic School and flight training, Stalnaker was assigned to Marine Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 14, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, N.C. While he was with the "Bengals" he completed two deployments to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

His next assignment was as the Carrier Air Wing assistant operations officer



Official USMC photo

Lt. Col. James L. Stalnaker

and landing signal officer on board the USS Coral Sea, in addition to flying with the Attack Squadron 65 "Flying Tigers."

Stalnaker also served a brief tour as a flight instructor and training landing signal officer with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 in El Toro, Calif., before being deployed to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During the conflict he flew 36 combat missions including the initial strike into Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991.

In 1993 he went back to the Persian Gulf aboard the USS Constellation and flew 23 combat sorties in support of Operation Southern Watch. Again in 1998 he returned to the gulf and flew nine more combat sorties in support of OSW.

In addition to his many combat missions and fighter pilot experience, Stalnaker also attended the Tactical Air Control Party School and the Army's Commanding General Staff College.

Stalnaker has flown 3700 hours, 68 combat missions and tallied 558 carrier landings. His personal decorations include the Single Mission Air Medal with Combat V, Strike Flight Medal with Numeral 5 and three Navy Commendation Medals, one with Combat V.

He is married to the former Linnea K. Anderson of Des Moines, Iowa. They have three children, Jennie, Joe and Katie.



Official USMC photo

Lt. Col. Michael C. Albo

VA boosts healthcare priority for Purple Heart vets

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Veterans who've earned the Purple Heart medal now receive faster service and save money when they access Department of Veterans Affairs health care.

A public law passed late last year by Congress, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, extended new benefits to Purple Heart recipients, Kent Simonis, Veteran Affairs' director for health administration services, said in an Aug. 22 interview with the American Forces Information Service.

Simonis said Purple Heart veterans have been placed in a higher- priority category for VA healthcare services and no longer need to make co-payments for inpatient or outpatient VA medical services. The change affects the seven-step priority system that Congress established for VA health care.

"Under the new system, the minimum classification for Purple Heart veterans is now priority group 3," he said. "That is very good news for Purple Heart recipients, in that they are virtually assured of VA health care services now and well into the future."

Before the change, Purple Heart recipients often were placed in priority groups 4

through 7, Simonis said. Those who qualified for priority groups 1 or 2 because of service-connected disabilities will remain in those groups, he added.

Veterans Affairs health care priority categories include:

- Group 1: veterans assigned a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater.
- Group 2: veterans assigned a service-connected disability rating of 30 or 40 percent.
- Group 3: veterans who are Purple Heart recipients or former prisoners of war; or who have 10 or 20 percent service-connected disability; or who were discharged from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; or who were awarded special eligibility under 38 U.S. Code, Section 1151, "Benefits for individuals disabled by VA treatment or vocational rehabilitation."
- Group 4: veterans receiving aid in attendance or housebound pension benefits, or who've been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.
- Group 5: veterans with no service-connected disabilities and those with service-connected disabilities rated zero percent, and noncompensated veterans whose income and net worth are below the established dollar

The Purple Heart: America's First Military Decoration

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The heritage of the Purple Heart began in 1782 when Gen. George Washington presented heart-shaped patches of purple cloth to three heroic soldiers of his Revolutionary War army.

As it turns out, those were the only awards ever made of the Badge of Military Merit, as it was called. The practice of military awards and decorations then fell into disfavor until the Civil War and the creation of the Medal of Honor.

The Army revived the award on Feb. 22, 1931, but as a heart-shaped, purple-enameled medal featuring Washington's profile. Again awarded for meritorious military service, the new medal had criteria that defined "a wound, which necessitates treatment by a medical officer ... received in action with an enemy" as indicative of a meritorious act.

dicative of a meritorious act.

In Executive Order 9277 of Dec. 3, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt extended the use of the Purple Heart to members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard retroactively to Dec. 6, 1941. The 1942 order also established a uniform application of standards for the award in the Army and Navy.

President Harry S. Truman, in Executive Order 10409 of Nov. 12, 1952, extended Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard eligibility for the Purple Heart retroactively to April 5, 1917, to cover World War I.

Current award criteria are defined in Army Regulation 600-8-22. The Purple Heart ranks immediately behind the Bronze Star Medal in the order of precedence of personal military awards.

(Editor's Note: This article is based on a June 1999 Army News Service release.)

threshold (about \$27,000).

- Group 6: World War I and Mexican border war veterans; veterans receiving care in relation to exposure to toxic substances such as Agent Orange and radiation; or compensated zero percent, service connected veterans.

- Group 7: nonservice-connected veterans and zero percent nonservice-connected

vets whose income and net worth are above the established dollar threshold and who agree to make specified co-payments.

Purple Heart recipients will also save money under the new policy. Veterans making over \$27,000 per year typically have to make a co-payment, currently \$50.80 per

See **Purple Heart**, page 10

Sergeant Major's Corner



Courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA Sergeant Major

Defining the composition of an effective leader is probably one of the most controversial topics in the Marine Corps today. Questions such as: Are they born? Are they created and shaped in one's own image? Are they of a particular height, weight, race, color or creed? Marines could find themselves in a fierce debate when searching for answers to these questions.

Through my personal experiences and observation, one must employ the basic 14 leadership traits and the 11 principles of leadership to be an effective leader. More importantly, they must listen and learn. Leaders learn from the advice they obtain from superiors, peers, and more importantly, subordinates. Leaders must understand that they learn two things from everyone they meet: how to be and how not to be.

In learning from your superiors and peers, you must first determine what leadership trait/style they possess that you admire and what is it about them that you are not fond of or dislike. Incorporating various traits/styles as part of your individual leadership package will make you more effective. On many occasions I've sat down with my superiors and peers and talked of techniques, skills and ways that I might use to improve myself. I cannot recall ever coming away without positive results and a feeling of self-satisfaction.

When you do this, remember you may hear things that you don't necessarily want to hear about yourself, but that information

will only make you stronger if you use it.

As a young sergeant it was mighty hard for me to ask someone for their opinion about my leadership abilities because, after all, I could recite the traits and principles by heart. Yet, when I did some soul searching, I asked myself "Who would really be getting hurt? Me and my feeling or my subordinates!"

I have found that learning from your subordinates is your most important ability and your real moneymaker. They will tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear. Never forget that you were not born into the position you are in now, and that you are still subordinate to someone. Once your subordinates realize that you are willing to listen to their thoughts, ideas and recommendations, you have gained their most prized possessions — respect and trust. Many subordinates will do almost anything for you if you treat them as you want to be treated. Being fair, just and holding them accountable reaps limitless rewards.

As I've previously stated, the composition of an effective leader is diversified and can lead to long hours of healthy debate. I personally don't believe leaders are born, but born unto themselves. Their talents lay within. Reading books on great leaders only shows you the methods they used to become effective leaders. You have to listen and learn to become an effective leader.

Perhaps a savvy retired general officer said it best: "Leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible." [Gen. Colin Powell (Ret), former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff].

Local job fair being held

The noncommissioned Officers Association of the United States of America is hosting a job fair today from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 1895 Camino Del Rio South. The fair will feature national job opportunities for service members, veterans, family members and government employees. For more information, visit the NCOA Web site at, *www.ncoa.usa.org*.

Miramar celebrates POW/MIA day

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar will hold a ceremony Sept. 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the Officer's Club here in recognition of POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Panda's P.E. Club hosts children's fair

The Panda P.E. Club is holding a children's fair Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. at their facility located at 9910 Mira Mesa Blvd. The event will provide information and have the panda character available. For more information, call (858) 578-4444.

Experienced Rider Course offered

The Safety Officer holds the Experienced Rider Course the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The course concentrates on cornering, braking and swerving. For more information, call Dan Jaquez at 577-8595.

Library extends hours

The station library has extended its hours. The new hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information, call 577 - 1261.

MCCS seeks athlete of the year nominations

Marine Corps Community Services needs units to submit nominees for the 2000 Marine Corps Male and Female Athlete of the Year for Oct. 1999 through Sept. 2000. Marines eligible must have been in intramural, All Marine, national level or selected to the United States CISM team. Nominations must be turned in no later than Sept. 15. For more information, call Bob Stop at 577 - 4127.

New on-line library catalog available

The library now has an on-line catalog listing of all the books the station libraries have throughout the Marines Corps. Marines can log on to the site at, <http://library.usmc.mccs-org>. Through the site Marines can request a book from any library and the library staff can order that book.

Safety offices wants to hear Marines' stories

The safety office is seeking stories about Marines who have had a traffic mishap or a near miss. For more information, call Linda Jackowski at 577 - 1356.

Safety needs to be addressed on the golf course

Marines are reminded that they should not be running throughout the gold course and conducting daily exercises. Instead, they should stay on the designated physical fitness route.

Sick leave regulations change

The sick leave policy has been expanded for federal employees as of June 20. Employees may take up to 12 days of sick leave each year to care for a family member, spouse, brother, sister or any individual related by blood. However, if that employee has already taken the allotted 13 days, that time must be deducted from the 12 weeks. They cannot

take 13 days in addition to the 12 weeks. For more information, call Debbie at 577 - 1250 or Stacey at 577 - 1330.

Base Education Center has new electronic response system

The station Education Center has a new e-mail address to respond to patron's questions. Their e-mail address is OMBEC. All questions should be answered within one working day. For more information, call (858) 577-1801.

Internet server to be down temporarily

Internet and e-mail capabilities will be down Saturday from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. due to maintenance.

Recycling Center Relocates

The station Recycling Center has relocated to the old Provost Marshall Building located in Building 6310. The center is open

Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Materials can also be dropped off at the satellite yard located in the parking lot of the main exchange. For more information, call 577-6366.

Volunteers sought for community project.

The 3d MAW Chaplain's office is assisting in repairing homes and performing yard work for adults and children with special needs. This event will take place at Ivey Ranch in Oceanside, Calif., from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 577 - 7368.

Parenting classes offered

The Marine New Parent Support Program is holding several parenting classes for all Miramar personnel including active duty, retired, DoD civilians and their spouses. Baby Boot camp is the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of each month from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. This class teaches the basics of caring for an infant. Mom's Basic Training is a

six-week course for expectant or new mothers on infant care. Interested people should call for dates and times of this class. Small Wonders is an eight-week class for parents of toddlers and preschoolers. It is offered Tuesdays from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Murphy Canyon Chapel classroom. For more information about classes, call (858) 577 - 9812.

Mentors sought

The Program for Academic and Languages Services is a small non-profit organization who needs adults to coordinate their exchange program. Coordinators will screen local host families for the incoming students and act as a liaison between the program and schools. For more information, call 1-888-7257 or e-mail *exchange@net-port.com*.

Museum seeks volunteers

The Flying Leatherneck Museum is looking for volunteers to assist with the museum's gift shop. For more information, call (858) 693-1723 or (949) 643-1802.

Tarawa memories passed through generations

BETIO, Tarawa Atoll – For three Marines, the Aug. 29 visit to the island of Tarawa meant more than to the average Marine or Sailor visiting Tarawa for the first time.

Nearly 57 years after the bloody battle for Tarawa, Marines and Sailors from 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group visited Tarawa for a wreath-laying ceremony to recognize the valiant service of the Marines and Sailors who fought and died there.

Back in 1943, it was their relatives who visited for the first time, under more dire circumstances. The visit brought the stories these men told their children and grandchildren to life. A 21-gun salute is fired in honor of the Marines and Sailors who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the battle of Tarawa in November 1943.

“It is just incredible for me to think that I am standing on the same spot where my grandfather landed back then,” said Capt. Jill Hastings, MEU Service Support Group 13. Her grandfather was a Marine during the war. “I just can’t imagine what he and the Marines with him went through.”

“I am walking upon a place my father was nearly 60 years ago,” said Staff Sgt. Alan J. Taylor, whose father was a Navy corpsman during the war and landed on Tarawa the second day of the battle. “This is hallowed and sacred ground. The entire atoll should be a shrine.”

The young Taylor’s sentiments echo that of many of the new generation of Marines who walked the beaches where the hot weather was perhaps the last thing on the minds of the old generation for

those three November days in 1943.

“I can’t speak for the other men, but I felt that I understood pretty well the importance of that atoll,” said Harry J. Taylor Jr., the staff sergeant’s 79-year-old father. He was a Pharmacist’s Mate First Class with Company C, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, from March 1943 to March 1945. “There was no doubt in my mind that it was an important step toward the defeat of Japan.”

Taking Tarawa meant breaking Japan’s strategic advantage of controlling Tarawa, the gateway to the central and southern Pacific. There was only one way to do it – amphibious assault.

Once the air and naval bombardment stopped, Higgins boats and amtraks were supposed to ferry Marines to the shore but didn’t get away on time, allowing the defenders to emerge from their cover and assume fighting positions.

Still, the former petty officer said most of the Marines and Sailors were confident the operation would not be that hard.

“Many of us thought after the terrible naval and air bombardment, there would only be a few survivors, and those who were left would be in such a dazed condition they would offer little resistance,” he said. “We watched this activity for at least a day and a night before the landing. This was an awesome sight. I wondered how anyone could survive such a pounding.”

Survive the Japanese did, and they fought fiercely for every inch of the island. Still the Marines overcame.

“I’m not certain about the strategy, but at the time it seemed to be the only

feasible option,” the elder Taylor said.

It was not without its cost, however; the toll on the Marines and Sailors who survived wasn’t just physical, but mental as well.

“My grandfather suffered from post-traumatic stress,” Hastings said. She looked out over the atoll as if trying to visualize what it was like in November 1943. “My mother would tell me about



A 21-gun salute is fired in honor of the Marines and Sailors who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the battle of Tarawa in November 1943. The salute was part of a ceremony held aboard USS Tarawa, conducted by Marines and Sailors of 13th MEU (SOC) and Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group.



**Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Stephen Gude
13th MEU(SOC) PAO**

(Top) Capt. Jill Hastings, center, is flanked by Kiribati children after a ceremony on the island of Tarawa commemorating the Marines and Sailors who participated in the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943. Hastings' grandfather was a Marine who landed on Tarawa with the initial assault.



Staff Sgt. Alan J. Taylor (above, right) stands next to the memorial erected on the island of Betio, where the battle of Tarawa took place. This side of the memorial celebrates the Navy's contributions in the battle; the other side bears a plaque describing the Marines'. Taylor's father was a 2nd Marine Division corpsman and landed on the island on the second day of the battle.

how he could still smell the scent of death, even 10 years after the war. The experience had that effect on him.”

Still, when the men spoke of what they went through, their experiences had an effect on the children and grandchildren who sat to listen.

For Capt. Geoffrey Gilliland, a UH-1N Huey pilot whose grandfather stormed these beaches as a PFC, hearing the stories his grandfather told made him realize that when he entered the Marine Corps himself, he was entering for more than slogans and recruiting posters.

“When he told me of the fierce fighting and the life and death decisions he had to make in order to survive, it stands out in my mind,” Gilliland said. “He told me how he and one of his buddies kept throwing back smoking Japanese grenades that were being thrown at them from a pillbox. He talked about having the Japanese shooting at them as they tried to get ashore. They were shooting at the Marines from underneath the pier that ran perpendicular to the approach.”

“I first heard of my father’s experiences when I stumbled upon a 2nd Marine Division book that basically amounted to a sort of deployment book for all the exploits of 2nd MarDiv in the Pacific during WWII,” said Taylor. “I brought the book to my father’s attention. He described his travels through the Pacific in great detail, often more detail than one would want to imagine. My reaction at the time was ‘I want to be a Marine just like my dad.’”

Taylor said after he grew older, he realized his father was in fact a Navy

corpsman.

“This didn’t sway me as far as which service I was destined for. I had grown up thinking my dad was a Marine.”

Hastings said her grandfather’s service didn’t exactly make her join, but enhanced her decision.

“It became something that was a source of pride for me, knowing the background of service that I’d come from and that I was continuing the legacy,” she said.

The three younger Marines described their elders as having different traits that could attribute to their experiences at Tarawa.

Gilliland noticed his grandfather’s “integrity, love of country and the sparkle in his eye when I come home to visit and he sees me in uniform. He always reminds me of my responsibility of taking care of fellow Marines and he puffs his chest out and says ‘Semper Fi, Marine.’”

Hastings spoke of her grandfather’s quiet pride and dignity, and of how he still has deep feelings from his service that are sometimes hard to share.

“When I asked him about this,” she said, speaking of her visit, “he began talking, but I could tell there was a point where it was affecting him. I didn’t push him.”

“My father is your average patriotic American who cares about his country and joined the Navy knowing full well that he could, at any time, pay the ultimate price,” Taylor said. “Perhaps not (the ultimate price) for his country directly, but definitely for the guy on the right and left.

PMO: on the look out for safety violators

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Prowling the streets and the dark corners of the base they creep through the night looking for law breakers, and anticipating the next offenders. They are the military police.

Drivers should keep in mind that the military police are keeping a close eye out for safety violators.

Despite their watchdog attitude, military policemen are not out to harass or 'send Marines up the river.' They are just trying to ensure everybody's safety.

Currently, seatbelts are a big issue on the station. A large number of Marines are killed every year in auto accidents. In the past year, 44 Marines were killed in auto accidents, said Gunnery Sgt. David Ward, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron safety specialist.

And many of these fatalities could have been prevented if the driver and or passengers simply wore a seat belt.

Vehicle operation safety doesn't end

with a seat belt.

Reckless driving, driving under the influence and driving a vehicle that is not fit for the road are just some of the many violations military policemen have to look for on a day-to-day basis to guarantee safe passage on the streets of Miramar.

As it stands now, a Marine in violation of the seatbelt regulations will receive a ticket on the first offense. If the Marine gets a second offense within 30 days of the first one he or she will have his or her driving privileges suspended for 30 days.

There are some instances when a military policemen will let a Marine in violation go with a warning, because they are trying to help Marines not just get them in trouble, according to Sgt. Philip R. Levesque, road supervisor for the Provost Marshal's Office here.

"If they've got integrity and they're

being cooperative I'm going to give them a verbal warning. But if they start giving attitude or just lying about something that they obviously did, like plainly running a

red light, not wearing a seatbelt, or just speeding down the road, they'll get a ticket," said Levesque.

Regardless of how courteous the driver, if a Marine is found under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs while operating a vehicle, the driver will be spending the evening in a holding cell.

Their vehicle will be impounded, and their driving privileges will be suspended along with whatever fines the judge orders to be paid after the violator's day in court.

In the unfortunate event when a ticket is issued for a DUI, the violator can look forward to the possibility of losing on-station driving privileges.



photo by Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

(Above) Military Police Officer, Cpl. Christopher A. Delaney, thoroughly inspects a motorcyclist to ensure he's following all the proper motorcycle safety precautions. (Left) Buckling up could save your life and your driving privileges.



photo by Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

Miss Budweiser visits Miramar — Budweiser girl Rosa-Lyn Diaz, gives Marine Corps Air Station Miramar service members something to smile about Sept. 1 in the Jet Mart parking lot. Diaz appeared along side Bernie Little's Miss Budweiser Championship Hydroplane as a bit of a morale booster for the service members aboard the station, courtesy of the Jet Mart and Budweiser.

**Hidden hideaway
right around the
corner ...**

Area 51 is your one-stop party shop

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Nice shirts and skirts, lights flashing, music bumping and bodies jumping is a common scene at Area 51.

Open every evening, Area 51, offers a good time to service members of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar just outside their barracks doors.

All too often Marines and Sailors drive out in town to a club or bar to enjoy a few drinks and have a little fun. By the end of the evening they're worrying about driving home.

Staff members at the enlisted club have gone through and continue to go through great lengths to keep from having to worry about getting them home.

According to Davenport Strait, Area 51 entertainment and events coordinator, service members and civilians of Miramar have no need to go out in town for a good time when the E-Club has everything they're looking for at much better prices, without the risk of an alcohol-related incident while driving.

"For entertainment I try to book big names, like the Revelations (a popular reggae band), because I want the club to be comparable to other San Diego

'hot spots' so (the people of Miramar) don't have to go downtown," said Strait. "My number one goal is to offer a safe haven for them to go and get the same entertainment as they would get downtown."

'It's a hidden secret to a lot of people.'

*Davenport Strait,
Area 51 entertainment
and events coordinator*

Three times a month Area 51 hosts a special event. For example during August the club held a talent show, sponsored by the popular radio station Z-90. The Z-90 mobile stage set-up shop just outside of the club and contestants from Miramar stepped up and performed for cash and prizes.

In September the E-Club has scheduled a variety of special events. On the 16th, the Revelations are scheduled to perform live from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be a cover charge of \$5 at the door.

September 20th, the club is having a Tejano Night, a Mexican and Texan blend of music, featuring Sammy the DJ from San Antonio. There is a \$2 cover charge that evening. On the 22nd, up-and-coming Hip-hop stylists,

Que-Pee and Tish-Babe are scheduled to perform, a \$5 cover charge is required for the event.

The money from the cover charges for these events goes strictly toward funding the next event, said Strait. In comparison to prices of the clubs off station, Area 51 is much less expensive. For example, the Revelations played at the club downtown recently for a cover charge of \$15 and Area 51 only charges \$5. Entertainment at

the E-Club doesn't end with special events. Every night of the week the club is hopping with a variety of different themes. Sundays, the club features Karaoke; Mondays, pool and darts; Tuesdays, Salsa music; Wednesdays, Ladies Night; Thursdays, Salsa music; Fridays, Hip-hop and Saturdays Rhythm and Blues. Every third Thursday a live Salsa band performs.

"I'd like to think [Area 51] is a real asset to the base," said Strait. "I think it's a hidden secret to a lot of people. When people walk in here, they react like 'oh my god, I can't believe this has been in my 'back yard and I didn't know about it'."

Strait said the more people who attend the special events and frequent the club, the better it will get.



photo by Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

Lance Cpl. Troy Champion, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 airframes technician, lines up for a shot during a game of pool at Area 51. Miramar residents often frequent Area 51 for the free pool, darts and many other games.

Services consolidate exchange charge cards

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Life is simpler for military exchange customers: Now there's just one charge card instead of two.

DoD mandated the consolidation of the Delayed Payment Plan charge card issued by Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the NEXCARD used in Navy and Marine exchanges, said Connie Gordon, general manager of the AAFES facilities at Fort Belvoir, Va. The Military Star Card is the result, she said.

The Star Card will be accepted at most of the AAFES, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Exchange activities, to include catalog and military clothing stores operated by AAFES and Marine Corps exchanges, Gordon said.

Previously, the only exchange-issued cards that stores honored were their own com-mand's.

"We expect the Marine Corps and Coast Guard to be opening up more sites to accept the Military Star Card very soon," she said.

AAFES, the Naval Exchange Service Command, the Marine

Corps Exchange Service and the Coast Guard have approved the new card for use, she said. The official implementation date was Sept. 3, she added, but DPP cardholders in good credit standing began receiving their Star Cards in the mail weeks ago.

Customers are asked to destroy their old DPP and NEXCARD cards upon receipt of their new Star Card, according to exchange officials. Customers may still use old cards until Dec. 31; only the Star Card will be accepted after that.

The Star Card cannot be used at Class VI package stores or exchange theaters. They also cannot be used at food courts, which usually are operated by contractors.

Authorized customers who haven't received their new Star Cards by the end of October should call the following numbers starting Nov. 1:

- 1-877-891-STAR CONUS (includes Alaska and Hawaii) Toll free.
- 0130-81-2469 Germany (Toll-free).
- 00531-114239 Okinawa, Japan (Toll-free).
- 8008-72683 Italy (Toll-free).

- 00308-130663 Korea (Toll-free).
- 800-96-1843 United Kingdom (Toll-free).
- 00531-11-4239 Japan (Toll-free).
- 0800-1-6374 Belgium (Toll-free).
- 1800-546-7195 Guam (Toll-free).
- 214-312-6030 Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Norway, Crete, Netherlands (Collect).

Gordon said the new card features redesigned balance statements designed to help customers better manage their accounts. The Star Card carries a 14.25 interest rate, the same rate as the cards it supercedes, said AAFES customer service agent Stacy Martinez. That rate, she said, is competitive with similar store credit cards.

Use of the Star Cards benefits the entire military, Gordon said. "The earnings that come from this card are plowed back into the military community in the form of morale, welfare and recreation dividends," she said. "It is a special benefit for customers (and) a

See **Exchange**, page 11



Tired of... Snail Mail?

Use the Marine Corps Institute's New Online Services

<http://www.mci.usmc.mil/>



- Enroll in courses on the www
- Look at your student records online
- Take exams online



Sizzling hot September show

The Miller Lite “Comics on Duty” show will appear at the base theater tonight at 7 p.m. The show features national headliners Chris Alpine, Jeff Capri, John Knight and Kevin Jordan. Because the show contains adult humor, no one under 18 will be admitted without a parent or guardian.

The show is free; tickets are available at the Entertainment Ticket Office (limit four tickets per person while available). Call the ticket office at 577-1016 or stop by the office in Building 2524. Following “Comics on Duty,” the film “X-Men” will be shown.

Runway 10K & Fight Line Bike Classic is coming

Entry blanks for the 2000 Runway 10K & Flight Line Bike Classic (10K/5K Run/Walk & Fun Bike Ride) are available. The events, which include a Wheelchair 10K, take place Sept. 23. Full details are available on the entry form. Call 577-1000 or 577-4128 for details. To register online, go to www.mccsmiramar.com and look for the link under Special Events.

Get affordable SCUBA training

You don’t need a submarine to check out the underwater world ... just scuba certification. The MCCS Semper Fit Aquatics Program provides affordable entry-level, advanced and master diver classes. The Basic Scuba Diver Course offers NAUI certification with 12 hours of classroom study, 12 hours of pool training and five ocean dives.

The \$99 tuition fee includes all snorkel and scuba equipment except wetsuit, booties and gloves; wetsuit rental is \$15. There is a \$45 fee for books and certificate. Week-day and weekend classes are offered. Your “C” card (certification card) will be honored at dive destinations around the world! Call 577-4137 for more information.

MCCS reminds you to ‘Party Smart’

To promote the use of the Designated Driver Program, Miramar has expanded the Know Your Limits/Know Your Choices program, creating the overall “Party Smart” program. The “Party Smart” program provides alternatives to drinking and driving. Designated drivers receive free non-alcoholic beverages, a complimentary meal for a later date at an MCCS food service facility and free valuable coupons for various MCCS facilities.

Also, for anyone who chooses not to drive or when the server deems that driving is not an option, MCCS personnel will either phone

a friend or family member to have them picked up (individuals receive a coupon for a complimentary meal at a later date), MCCS employees will call a taxi cab for them or make arrangements for patrons at the Consolidated Bachelors’ Quarters.

All individuals should always use a designated driver! For more information on “Party Smart” call 577-4808.

Stables offer riding instruction

The Stables in East Miramar offer instruction by Nancy Lawler, who specializes in youth riders’ Western and English formats; Sara Pinney, who teaches and trains horses; Janet Reed, who teaches dressage and hunter/jumper skills, and Hedi Wilkes, who teaches English riding to children. The Stables also offers monthly boarding and a tack and feed store. Call the Stables at 577-4139 for more information.

Get your MCCS updates on-line

Don’t forget to check out our Web site at www.mccsmiramar.com to see what’s happening on base!

Air show ticket info

General admission blanket seating at the Miramar Air Show is free, but several paid seating upgrades are offered. The ultimate is the Semper Fi Chalet, which includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and snacks, beer, wine, soda and water, preferred parking and a complimentary souvenir program. Other choices include the Flight Deck Chalet, the Observation Deck Chalet, Box Seats and Grandstand Seating. Ticket prices vary by location and show, but advance purchases will save you money. Pick up a brochure at the Entertainment Ticket Office, Bldg. 2524, or call 577-1016. Tickets will soon be available through Ticketmaster. Visit www.miramarairshow.com for current information.

Area 51 offers hot tunes

“The Revelations” bring live roots reggae in espanol to the Miramar E-Club Sept. 16 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. There is a \$5 cover charge.

Additionally, Sept. 20 is Tex-Mex Tejano Night, featuring Sammy the DJ from San

Antonio. The show begins at 8 p.m. and runs until 12:30 a.m. There is a \$2 cover charge. Call 577-7968 for details about these or other shows.

Ticket office has Chargers tickets

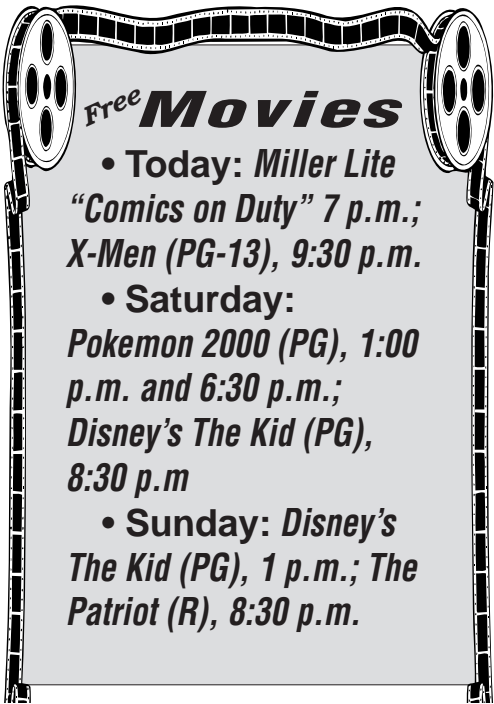
The Entertainment Ticket Office has a limited amount of San Diego Chargers tickets still available. Regular season home game tickets are \$47 each, which start Sunday when the Bolts host New Orleans. Home games still available include Seattle (Sept. 24) and Kansas City (Nov. 26).

Kayak Mission Bay

The Outdoor Adventure Center is heading for Mission Bay for some kayak fun! There are tours set for 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16.

All skill levels are welcome, but ages 18 and over only. Kayaks, life jackets, paddles and guides will be provided.

The fee is \$1 for active duty and \$2 for all others. Visit the Outdoor Adventure Center in Bldg. 6673, or call 577-4150.



Free *Movies*

- **Today: Miller Lite “Comics on Duty” 7 p.m.;**
X-Men (PG-13), 9:30 p.m.
- **Saturday:**
Pokemon 2000 (PG), 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.;
Disney’s The Kid (PG), 8:30 p.m
- **Sunday: Disney’s The Kid (PG), 1 p.m.;**
The Patriot (R), 8:30 p.m.

'232,
continued from page 1

Beginning their history as Fighting Plane Squadron 3M, Red Devils received the Yangtze Service Streamer for combat action over Shanghai, China just two years after being commissioned. Akin to today's Red Devils the squadron amassed 2,000 accident-free flight hours by June 1932 and were awarded the Herbert H. Fuller Memorial Cup award for safety by Commandant, Maj. Gen. Ben H. Fuller.

Later this month the squadron will host a reunion of Red Devil officers from World War II to present. "Hopefully when they walk around the spaces and they see these young Marines and the things they're doing they'll say, 'This is the Marine Corps I wanted it to be when I got out or retired,'" said Gould.

The squadrons' first aircraft was a single-seat biplane with a 180 horsepower engine that topped out at about 150 miles per hour. As the years went on the power, speed, longevity, technology and cost of Red Devil aircraft grew to meet the rigors of the combat environment.

Today the squadron flies F/A-18C "Hornet" jets, a multi-role fighter and attack jet capable of going Mach 1.7 and greater.

In between the squadron has performed roles as bombing and torpedo bombing squadrons based on land and sea during World War II. It was during this period the squadron was redesignated to Marine Scout-Bombing Squadron 232, a numeric designation that remained to present day.

Despite the squadron's performance during conflicts in the Pacific including action at Wake Island, Guadal Canal, Bougainville and Okinawa, the squadron was decommis-

sioned on Nov. 16, 1945 shortly after returning to San Diego, Calif. However, the Red Devils were reactivated as a Marine Corps Reserve squadron, Marine Fighter Squadron 232, Naval Air Station Floyd Bennett Field, New York, on June 3, 1948.

Action in Korea prompted the squadron to be reestablished to active duty in October of the following year and it was relocated to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif. After returning from deployment in the Pacific the Red Devils received their first jet in March 1953.

Red Devils again saw combat in the Republic of Vietnam in late 1966. In total, Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 232 recorded 7,273 flight hours and 5,785 sorties. During action the squadron lost more than a half-dozen aircraft and two pilots before returning to El Toro in September 1967. The skies over Vietnam would demand Red Devil action in 1969 and 1973, calls the squadron answered and remained in country until they were the last Marine squadron to leave the Vietnam War. Subsequent action claimed another two crewmembers and five aircraft.

In the years to come the Red Devils would find homes at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan and at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. In early 1989 the Red Devils began receiving their first F/A-18 "Hornet" aircraft. After less than a year of transition training the squadron was deployed for combat in support of the Gulf War.

Miramar, at the time a Naval air station, was first called home by the Red Devils in February 1995. Since arriving here the squadron has regularly deployed to one of its former homes, MCAS Iwakuni, as part

of the Unit Deployment Program. The squadron is schedule to make its next deployment in September 2001.

Child care, continued from page 1

perform better on the job, which then leads to mission readiness," she said. Family readiness is now recognized as vital to military readiness, she said.

Today there are more than 800 military child development centers worldwide, including school-age care centers, and more than 9,000 family child care homes. Over the past six years, DoD has added substantial funding to child care programs for subsidies and improvements to facilities.

"All of the services are committed to expanding the availability of quality care by sharing best practices and exploring options such as expanding home-based care for infants and toddlers," she said.

Home-based care is "the largest untapped portion of our child care program," according to Bernard D. Rostker, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "We must put the same focus and creativity in increasing the in-home care system as we have done for our much-sought-after child care centers," he said. Van Horn, Rostker and other DoD and service officials discussed efforts to expand child care at the DoD Family Readiness Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 22 to 24.

Marine Corps Efforts

Mike Berger, head of the Marine Corps' Children and Youth Programs at Quantico, Va., echoed the call for more home-based care.

"We're not going to get to our ultimate goal of 80 percent without expanding family child care," he said. "We've got to get our parents to perceive family child care as equitable to our center-based care. We've got to get across to our parents that quality child care can happen in our family child care homes. It doesn't just happen in our centers."

Marine Corps resource and referral specialists need to understand the quality of care family providers can offer, Berger noted. "Resource and referral specialists should look at family child care as a viable option for meeting families' child care needs," he said.

Like the other services, the Marine Corps is now using subsidies as incentives to expand family child care and particularly to increase the number of infant and toddler spaces in family child care homes.

"Our centers can't absorb all of the infants and toddlers," Berger said. "When we have waiting lists, it's usually for infant care. We provide a larger subsidy for those homes that are willing to provide those spaces."

Larger subsidies are also offered providers who care for children with special needs, those willing to provide extended and overnight care, and those willing to become accredited. By providing incentives to improve quality, Berger said, "we think our parents are going to be more apt to use family child care."

Family child care is a major source of spouse employment in the services, he said. Like the other services, however, the Marines also have a problem retaining family care homes.

"If we raise the quality of family child care, people might be more willing to become providers and it will also increase provider longevity," he said. He cautioned the services not to put all their eggs in one bas-

ket. "Increasing family child care is great," he said, "but unless it's just one pillar in an overall approach, I think we're going to set ourselves up to fail.

"We've got to continue to push military construction for centers. We've got to continue to expand our school age care programs. And we've got to continue to work our resource and referral programs so we can identify other expansion opportunities within the civilian sectors."

Career Fair , continued from page 2

think that they will have to obligate a lot of time and energy that would take away from their civilian jobs or education. In fact, many employers encourage people to be in the reserves and students can earn even more money through the Montgomery GI Bill by being in the reserves."

No matter what a service member's plans are, or if he doesn't have any at all, the career fair and the career resource center can help answer questions and make the transition from active duty to the rest of his life.

The career resource center holds three career fairs every year and offers several services. For more information about the center's services call Leeds at 577-6491.

Purple Heart , continued from page 4

each outpatient visit. Purple Heart recipients no longer make those co-payments, regardless of income, Simonis said. He said the VA would reimburse Purple Heart veterans for any co-payments they've made for VA healthcare received after Nov. 29, 1999.

However, he added, Purple Heart recipients are still required to pay \$2 for each 30-day supply of prescription medication provided to outpatients for conditions not related to military service.

Possession of the Purple Heart medal doesn't by itself qualify veterans for VA disability compensation, Simonis said. Veterans need to be screened by a VA process for that.

Purple Heart recipients claiming VA health benefits must prove they have been awarded the decoration. Veterans Affairs will accept the Defense Department Form 214, discharge papers, military personnel records, orders or award certificates.

The Purple Heart traces its lineage to the U.S. military's oldest decoration, the Badge of Military Merit, first presented by George Washington to three soldiers in 1782. The Purple Heart indicates meritorious military service and is awarded to service members who've been wounded during action against the enemy, to include wounds incurred during captivity. (See sidebars).

For more Veterans Affairs benefits information, see the agency's Web site at www.va.gov.

Tarawa , continued from page 6

That trait in anyone is more than honorable." Taylor's father is open about his experiences, and in reflection, shares quite a bit. "I always felt I was fighting for God and country, the American democratic way of life," the elder Taylor said. "There were times when it got more personal, and I thought about my life, as well as God and country. After what I saw, I know that life is very precious. Your life may be tedious, routine, dull and miserable, but in most cases, it is always much better than the alternative.

"The alternative is so final."

Marine Mail,
continued from page 2

- What are we doing that we should do differently?
- What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing?
- What new concept or idea should the Marine Corps investigate to improve its warfighting capability?

"I challenge each of you to examine these criteria and provide your recommendations," Jones said.

As is evident from the questions, Marine Mail revolves around issues larger than any single Marine. It isn't a forum for airing individual grievances. Jones underscored that Marine Mail isn't a substitute for the chain of command and other reporting procedures such as Request MAST, the disciplinary process, medical boards, equal employment proceedings, and the like. Saying he wants to give Marine Mail a "jump start,"

Jones has posed a question about safety. "Annually, an average of 100 Marines die in mishaps and another 2,000 are separated due to injuries incurred in mishaps," Jones said. "What shortfalls do you see first-hand that contribute to this unacceptable trend?" Each quarter Jones plans to challenge the Corps with a new question.

However, any legitimate suggestion, whether it addresses the Commandant's quarterly question or some other issue, will receive a response. "Stick to the submission criteria and you will receive a reply within

30 days of receipt," Jones said. Sticking to the criteria is key. When Krulak was Commandant, he noted that there were times when nearly 90 percent of the Marine Mail suggestions failed to address any of the four criteria for improving the Corps.

There are four ways to submit a Marine Mail suggestion. (1) Visit the web page at <http://www.hqmc.usmc.mil/hqmc.htm> (2) Fax a suggestion to 703-614-5035. (3) E-mail a suggestion to MarineMail@hqmc.usmc.mil (4) Send postal mail to: Marine Mail (CMC), HQMC 2 Navy Annex Washington, D.C. 20380-1775.

Exchange,
continued from page 8

win-win."

For more information about the Military Star Card program, visit the AAFES Web site at www.aafes.com or the Marine Corps Electronic Shopping Mall, accessible at www.usmc-mccs.org. The Naval exchange service Web site address is navy-nex.com. The Coast Guard Exchange Service has no Web home page.

**MAKE TRACKS TO
OUR WEBSITE:**



www.miramar.usmc.mil

Miramar dominates Camp Pendleton



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

Miramar outside linebacker Lonnie Graves runs back an interception for a touchdown against the previously undefeated Transportation Support Battalion team. The interception return proved to be the nail in the coffin putting Miramar ahead 25-0 late in the fourth quarter. The win brings Miramar to the top of the league at 9-0 for the season. Miramar's next game will be against Marine Aircraft Group 39 Thursday at 7:10 p.m. at Camp Pendleton's main side football field.